

In The Claims

Please amend claims 1 and 5 and add new claims 6-18 as set forth in the replacement claims below (clean version). A marked up version to show the changes made in the claims is attached as Exhibit A.

1 (Once Amended) A vapor delivery system for neutralizing malodors in a malodorous area, the vapor delivery system comprising:

- a. a vaporization chamber having a sidewall positioned between a chamber ceiling and a chamber floor, the sidewall including an intake port positioned on the sidewall substantially diametrically opposed to an outlet port also positioned on the sidewall, the intake port and outlet port allowing the stream of air to enter said vaporization chamber through said intake port and exit said vaporization chamber through said outlet port, said vaporization chamber otherwise being enclosed;
- b. at least one nozzle having a spray tip directed toward said chamber floor, said at least one nozzle receiving a stream of liquid to allow said nozzle to deliver an atomized spray of liquid into said vaporization chamber, said atomized liquid being vaporized in the vaporization chamber and incorporated in said stream of air to create a stream of treated air; and
- c. a distribution system communicating with said outlet port for delivering said stream of treated air to the malodorous area, said distribution system having at least one vapor release port for releasing said treated air stream to the malodorous area.

2 The vapor delivery system of claim 1 wherein said air intake port communicates with an air filter for removing air bound particles from said air stream before entering said vaporization chamber.

3 The vapor delivery system of claim 1 wherein said spray tip of said nozzle is positioned in said chamber ceiling.

4 The vapor delivery system of claim 1 further comprising a blower connected between said chamber outlet port and said distribution system, said blower operable to draw said stream of air into said air intake port and push said stream of treated air through said distribution system.

5 (Once Amended) A method of neutralizing malodors comprising the steps of:

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- a. providing an enclosed vaporization chamber having a chamber wall positioned between a chamber ceiling and a chamber floor, the chamber wall having an intake port and a diametrically opposed outlet port;
 - b. drawing a stream of ambient air not received from an exhaust stream through said intake port and into said vaporization chamber such that the stream of ambient air travels through the vaporization chamber from the intake port to the diametrically opposed outlet port;
 - c. spraying an atomized liquid deodorant into said vaporization chamber through a nozzle having a spray tip;
 - d. bringing said stream of ambient air into contact with said atomized liquid deodorant in said vaporization chamber so that said liquid vaporizes into said stream of ambient air to create a stream of treated air leaving the vaporization chamber; and

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- e. delivering said stream of treated air through said outlet port to a distribution system having at least one vapor release port for releasing said stream of treated air from said distribution system.

- 6 (New) The method of claim 5 wherein the spray tip of the nozzle sprays liquid deodorant toward said chamber floor.
- 7 (New) The method of claim 6 wherein the spray tip of the nozzle is positioned above the intake port and the outlet port in the vaporization chamber.
- 8 (New) The method of claim 7 wherein the spray tip of the nozzle sprays liquid deodorant from the nozzle in a direction substantially perpendicular to the stream of ambient air traveling through vaporization chamber from the intake port to the diametrically opposed outlet port.
- 9 (New) The method of claim 5 wherein the spray tip of the nozzle sprays liquid deodorant toward said chamber ceiling.
- 93 10 (New) The method of claim 9 wherein the spray tip of the nozzle is positioned above the intake port and the outlet port in the vaporization chamber.
- 11 (New) The method of claim 10 wherein the spray tip of the nozzle sprays liquid deodorant from the nozzle in a direction substantially perpendicular to the stream of ambient air traveling through vaporization chamber from the intake port to the diametrically opposed outlet port.
- 12 (New) The vapor delivery system of claim 1 wherein the spray tip is arranged and disposed to deliver the atomized spray of liquid in a direction substantially perpendicular to the stream of air traveling between the inlet port and the outlet port in the vaporization chamber.
- 13 (New) The vapor delivery system of claim 12 wherein the spray tip is arranged and disposed above the inlet port and the outlet port in the vaporization chamber.

14 (New) A vapor delivery system for neutralizing malodors in a malodorous area, the vapor delivery system comprising:

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- a. a vaporization chamber for vaporizing a liquid in a stream of ambient air before delivery of the liquid to the malodorous area located outside of the vaporization chamber; the vaporization chamber having a sidewall positioned between a chamber ceiling and a chamber floor, the sidewall including an intake port positioned on the sidewall substantially diametrically opposed to an outlet port also positioned on the sidewall, the intake port positioned to receive the stream of ambient air not received from an exhaust stream, the intake port and outlet port allowing the stream of air to enter said vaporization chamber through said intake port and exit said vaporization chamber through said outlet port, said vaporization chamber otherwise being enclosed;
 - b. at least one nozzle having a spray tip directed toward said chamber ceiling, said at least one nozzle receiving a stream of liquid to allow said nozzle to deliver an atomized spray of liquid into said vaporization chamber, said atomized liquid being vaporized in the vaporization chamber and incorporated in said stream of air to create a stream of treated air; and
 - c. a distribution system communicating with said outlet port for delivering said stream of treated air to the malodorous area, said distribution system having at least one vapor release port for releasing said treated air stream to the malodorous area.

15 (New) The vapor delivery system of claim 14 wherein said air intake port communicates with an air filter for removing air bound particles from said air stream before entering said vaporization chamber.

16 (New) The vapor delivery system of claim 14 further comprising a blower connected between said chamber outlet port and said distribution system, said blower operable to draw said stream of air into said air intake port and push said stream of treated air through said distribution system.

17 (New) The vapor delivery system of claim 14 wherein the spray tip is arranged and disposed to deliver the atomized spray of liquid in a direction substantially perpendicular to the stream of air traveling between the inlet port and the outlet port in the vaporization chamber.

93 18 (New) The vapor delivery system of claim 17 wherein the spray tip is arranged and disposed above the inlet port and the outlet port in the vaporization chamber.

It is respectfully submitted that support may be found in the originally filed specification for each of the above amendments and new claims

REMARKS

I. Status of the Application.

Claims 1-18 of the present application are pending. In the June 12, 2002 Office Action, the Examiner (i) required clarification of whether Applicant is claiming domestic priority, (ii) objected to informalities in claim 1, and (iii) rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,030,253 to Tokuhiro et al ("Tokuhiro") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,844,874 to deVries ("deVries").

In this response, Applicant has (i) clarified the domestic priority claim, (ii) corrected informalities in claim 1, and (iii) amended claims 1 and 5 and added new claims 6-18. Accordingly, claims 1-18 are pending in the present application. Applicant respectfully traverses